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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – August 20, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of Art, Larry Francis Board Room

REVISED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Estrella Escobar	X	
	Kenneth Gorski	X	
	Teresa Hernandez	X	
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Steve Lujan	X	
	Marina Monsisvais	X	
	William Moody	X	
	Analinda Moreno	X	
	Susan Novick	X	
	Isela Ocegueda		X
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez	X	
	Ida Mae Steadman		X
	Jane B. Thomas		X

CITY CLERK DEPT.
2015 OCT 15 PM 4:21

Consecutive absences: Daniel Longoria (4th), Jane Thomas (1st)

Others present: Ben Fyffe, Misty Monteros, Michelle Villa, Christian Gerstheimer, George O. Maloof III, Jaime Knoedler and Rebecca Munoz.

2. **Call for Public Comment.** Ken Gorski read a letter written by Katherine Brennand.

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for August 20, 2015.** Chair began by allowing members time to review the minutes of the last meeting. Carina Ramirez moved to approve; Susan Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Museum Reports.** George O. Maloof III began his report on the Archaeology Museum, briefly reviewing education programs, including National Day of the Cowboy and a Wild West re-enactment. He continued with film screenings, lectures and workshops, noting that 3 of 6 scheduled summer camps were canceled due to low attendance. The biennial Jornada Mogollon conference is scheduled to take place on October 9th and 10th, with different presentations and seven articles published in the last conference proceedings volume. Student volunteers from St. Mark's began clean-up work on the trails around the museum and are scheduled to continue each month through May 2016. George concluded his report and opened the floor for questions; general discussion on staffing and recruitment followed.

Jaime Knoedler introduced herself and proceeded with the History Museum report, noting the museum had recently won two awards, *Best Museum in El Paso* from What's Up and *Mountain-Plains Museum Association Technology Award*. She continued with a brief review of exhibit openings and closings, workshops, ongoing projects, tours and collections. The Digital Wall currently contains 8,287 approved entries of videos and images, with 9,656,468 touches. Development staff is actively seeking grant money to help with translation expenses for the Wall, as approximately ¾ of entries have not been translated. A recent award of \$1,000 will be used for this

project. Jaime noted there would be a meeting with Woody Hunt on August 26th for possible naming opportunities and closed her report with general attendance, activities attendance and total attendance numbers. General discussion followed.

Christian Gerstheimer introduced himself and proceeded with the Art Museum report, noting that the Warhol Weekend event was very well-attended. He briefly reviewed exhibit openings and attendance, mentioning that reprints of Gaspar Enriquez's *Metaphors of El Barrio* exhibition catalog were paid for by the Foundation and the exhibition will be traveling to Brownsville in the fall, with the museum receiving a \$10,000 lease fee. Christian discussed a \$5,000 grant for educational programs that was received and provided cost comparisons for camps and adult class revenues over the last two fiscal years. Christian concluded his report and opened the floor for questions; general discussion followed.

5. Discussion and Action on FY 2016 Cultural Funding Awards. Ben Fyffe began by introducing Rebecca Munoz, who is returning to the department after previously serving as the Art & Farmers Market Coordinator, successfully helping to launch the farmers market component that grew the program by 272%. She comes with a solid wealth of non-profit development background and will make this presentation the next time this group convenes for this item next year. Ben continued by explaining to members that we grant out about a quarter of our budget annually to local artists, arts organizations and entrepreneurs interested in tourism and creative presentation. This year we granted out \$336,369 to 56 applicants and the application process was moved online for the first time, resulting in a record number of applicants. The panel was also able to access the information ahead of time, providing for a much more thorough review with each of the applications. The Operational Support Program (OSP) is for larger organizations that must have a 3-year funding track record with the department and at least one paid staffer; the Project Support Program (PSP) provides support to be used for specific programs and projects that have been outlined by the applicant; the Community Arts Program (CAP) is primarily for teaching artists and arts education, for services to be taken out into the community; and the Artist Incubator Program (AIP) grants money out to local artists to create new work. This year the program will be funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) as a way to work and engage with local artists. The KickstART Downtown Program is an initiative that we were directed to start by City Council 6 years ago, in which we are incentivizing activity in downtown El Paso. Ben noted that after approval, applicants awarded and declined receive a letter with their score and a compilation of panel comments. Applicants are encouraged to use the information for future applications. Awardees and amounts recommended for funding were provided for review via a PowerPoint presentation. Ben opened the floor for questions and general discussion followed. Chair requested a motion to approve. Marina Monsisvais moved to approve; Steve Lujan seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Acquisitions. Christian Gerstheimer began by noting there were two acquisitions from the bequest of Clarke Henderson Garnsey. The first is an etching on paper by Joseph Pennell, titled *Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral*, and the second is a drypoint etching on paper by Henry Rushbury, titled *Porto Maggiore, Oriveto*. Both images have been appraised and were shown via a PowerPoint presentation. Katherine Brennand moved to approve the acquisitions; Susan Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Outgoing Loan Requests. Christian Gerstheimer explained that a loan request was received from the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, TX for an exhibition they are planning, titled *Life and Death on the Border 1910-1920*, opening next January. The Art Museum was asked to recommend an assortment of artworks that might be included in this exhibition, and from that list of works, these 5 were selected: *Soldier and "Soldadera" Mexican Revolution, c. 1914*, an ink on paper by José Cisneros; *Untitled (from Prometheus series)*, a drypoint etching on paper by Jose Clemente Orozco; *Canyon/Barranca*, a watercolor on rice paper by Diego Rivera; *Show of Hands*, a giclée print on paper by Melesio Casas; and *La Danza (The Dance)*, a giclée print on paper by Marta Sánchez. Images were shown for review via a PowerPoint slideshow. Chair requested a motion to accept the loan requests. Susan Novick so moved; Katherine Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Updated Collections Plan. Michelle Villa, Registrar at the Art Museum, explained that in preparation for re-accreditation, a self-study was done and the Collections Care and Management Policy was reviewed. She proceeded to highlight some changes that have been made to the policy over the past few years via a PowerPoint presentation. In Section III, under 'Authority', there were updates made to better describe how things are delegated, how finances work at the City and to update the relationship between this board and the museum. In Section X, under 'Incoming Loans', a subsection on unclaimed loans and abandoned property was added, and it details sections of the Texas Property Code that apply. In Section XI, under 'Collections Care', requirements for temperature and humidity were updated to reflect current trends in the profession. There used to be a definite temperature and humidity threshold, and now thresholds are more seasonal and regional, depending on the museum location. There was also a new subsection added regarding sketching in galleries. In Section XIX, under 'Code of Ethics', sections specifically relating to curatorial members and collections from a separate Code of Ethics policy were added to the Collections Care and Management Policy. In Section III, under 'Collecting Art', there was an update to the Code of Ethics, as a manner of cross-referencing, that regarded use of funds acquired through deaccessioning. General discussion followed and Michelle requested approval of all the updates to the Collections Care and Management Policy, and the Code of Ethics. Teresa Hernandez motioned to approve; Steve Lujan seconded; all

members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment. Vice-Chair requested a motion to adjourn. **Carina Ramirez** so moved; **Ann Kruzich** seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for September 17, 2015.

Approved for content by:
Ken Gorski, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Monteros, Administrative Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

CITY CLERK DEPT.
2015 OCT 15 PM 4:24